

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01325 262150Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /075 W

----- 024197

P R 262020Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4648

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: IMPEACHMENT MOTION NOT TAKEN UP BY CONGRESS

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 1224 B) BUENOS AIRES 1241

1. OPPOSITION PARTIES IN CONGRESS LAST NIGHT TRIED TO TAKE UP IMPEACHMENT MOTION PRESENTED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BY FEDERALIST PARTIES. MOVE FAILED WHEN DISSIDENT PERONISTS VOTED AGAINST. MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP EXPLAINED THAT THEY COULD NOT SUPPORT MOTION BECAUSE IT BESMIRCHED PERONISM AS A WHOLE RATHER THAN JUST MRS. PERON. UCR HAD FAVORED TRYING FOR A DECLARATION OF INCOMPETENCE RATHER THAN IMPEACHMENT, BUT FEDERALIST PARTIES INSISTED ON BRINGING TO A VOTE QUESTION OF TAKING UP THEIR MOTION. WHETHER EVEN A SIMPLE DECLARATION OF INCOMPETENCE COULD HAVE BEEN PUSHED THROUGH IS OPEN TO QUESTION, HOWEVER, FOR AFTER MUCH BACKING AND FILLING PERONIST LABOR DEPUTIES DECIDED THEY COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY MOTION TO OUST MRS. PERON AT THIS JUNCTURE. WITH LABOR DEPUTIES REFUSING TO TAKE STAND TO GET RID OF HER, WORKING GROUP ALSO BACKED DOWN. ONE ANTI-VERTICALISTA PERONIST CLOSELY LINKED TO MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP COMMENTED TO EMBOFF LAST NIGHT THAT WORKING GROUP CONVINCED MILITARY COUP WAS COMING WHETHER OR NOT CONGRESS MOVED TO OUST MRS. PERON. "THUS", HE ADDED, "WHY RUN RISK OF BEING BRANDED TRAITORS TO OUR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01325 262150Z

MOVEMENT BY JOINING IN HER OUSTER IF THAT WOULD NOT SAVE

CONSTITUTIONALISM ANYWAY."

2. LAST COMMENT MAY HAVE BEEN A BIT OF SELF-JUSTIFYING SOPHISTRY. MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE--OR BELIEVED--THAT MILITARY WOULD HAVE HELD OFF IF CONGRESS COULD HAVE COME UP WITH CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION ON ITS OWN (SEE REF A). BALBIN, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN WARNING FOR PAST FEW DAYS THAT COUP IS IMMINENT AND IRREVERSIBLE UNLESS CIVILIAN POLITICIANS ACT IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO TAKE UP IMPEACHMENT MOTION, AND ATTITUDE OF PERONIST DEPUTIES WHICH CAUSED IT, NOW MAKE IT APPEAR MOST UNLIKELY THAT CONGRESS WILL BE ABLE TO ACT. UCR IS STILL TRYING TO COAX IT TO LIFE BY CALLING FOR JOINT SESSION FEB 27 AND 28 TO CENSURE MRS. PERON. EFFORT NOT LIKELY TO SUCCEED, HOWEVER, AND EVEN IF IT DOES, IT WOULD NOT RESULT IN MRS. PERON'S IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE. AT THIS POINT, THEN, WHEELS LEADING TO MILITARY SOLUTION HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY BEGUN TO TURN--WHETHER GOLPE IS PRODUCED NEXT WEEK, WEEK AFTER THAT OR EVEN A BIT LATER.

3. PERONISTS, MEANWHILE, ARE IN STATE OF CONFUSION AND DISARRAY. ON PARTY LEVEL, VERTICALISTAS SUPPORTING MRS. PERON (LED BY GOV ELOY CAMUS) HAVE CALLED FOR PARTY CONGRESS MARCH 6 IN EFFORT TO GET NATIONAL COUNCIL BACK IN THEIR HANDS. THE NINE ANTI-VERTICALISTA MEMBERS OF COUNCIL RESIGNED YESTERDAY, THOUGH THEY TOO APPARENTLY PLAN TO MAKE GRAB FOR COUNCIL AT PARTY CONGRESS (IF IT IS EVER HELD). MEANWHILE, PARTY IS WITHOUT A COUNCIL.

4. ON GOVT LEVEL, NEW CABINET CHANGES MAY BE IN OFFING. INDEED, DEFENSE MIN GUARDO REPORTEDLY HAS ALREADY RESIGNED (SEE SEP DAO MESSAGE). LABOR MIN UNAMUNO MAY ALSO TENDER RESIGNATION SHORTLY. IN CONGRESS, FREJULI BLOC LEADER JOSE CARMELO AMERISE WAS FORCED TO RESIGN WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT HE NO LONGER HAD SUPPORT OF HIS BLOC--MOST OF WHOM HAVE GONE OVER TO ANTI-VERTICALISTA SIDE EVEN THOUGH THEY WILL NOT VOTE AGAINST MRS. PERON. NICASIO SANCHEZ TORANZO, VERTICALISTA PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER IS UNDER ATTACK AND MAY ALSO BE FORCED OUT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 01325 262150Z

5. MRS. PERON SCHEDULED TO MEET THIS MORNING (FEB 26) WITH 62 ORGANIZATIONS LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL (WHO HAS RETURNED FROM BARILOCHE) TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE STEPS TO REPAIR HER DETERIORATING POSITION (ONE STEP, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT BE TO ACCEDE TO LABOR'S DEMANDS FOR COMPLETE CABINET OVERHAUL). WHATEVER THEY HIT UPON, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO RESULT SIMPLY IN WASTED MOTION. AT THIS LATE DATE, MILITARY NOT LIKELY TO PAY MUCH HEED TO CABINET CHANGES OR OTHER

EFFORTS TO BOLSTER PRESIDENT'S POSITION.

HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, IMPEACHMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETINGS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS01325
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760073-0038
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760212/aaaaajft.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BUENOS AIRES 1224, 76 BUENOS AIRES 1241
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPEACHMENT MOTION NOT TAKEN UP BY CONGRESS
TAGS: PINT, MPOL, AR, (PERON, MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006